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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

**Inventor:** Thomas Giering

**Application No.:** 09/926,579

**Confirmation No:** 1455

**Filed:** February 26, 2002

**Attorney No.:** GIER3001/JEK/JJC

**Customer No.:** 23364

**Examiner:** Bruce H. Hess

**Art Unit:** 1774

**For:** VALUABLE DOCUMENT

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AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated in the above application. In view of the following amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Please amend the present application in accordance with the following particulars:

In the Claims

An amendment of the claims in the List of Current Claims is presented below under the heading "Amendment of the Claims."